

Remarks

Reconsideration of this Application is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 1-10 are pending in the application, with 1 and 6 being the independent claims. Claims 6-10 are allowed. Based on the following remarks, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

In paragraph three of the Office Action, the Examiner stated that claims 6-10 appear to comprise allowable subject matter. Applicant acknowledges the allowance of claims 6-10.

Double Patenting

In paragraph two of the Office Action, claims 1 and 4 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,670,821 B2. Applicant has submitted herewith a terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.321(c) to obviate the judicially created double patenting rejection of claims 1 and 4 of the instant application over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,670,821 B2. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1 and 4 be withdrawn.

Other Matters

The Office Action Summary indicates in Block 7 that claims 2, 3, and 5 are objected to, but the Detailed Action does not provide a discussion of the objection. An attempt to contact the Examiner on August 18, 2004, for an explanation of the objection was unsuccessful.

In view of the terminal disclaimer submitted herewith to obviate the rejection of claims 1 and 4 of the instant application over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,670,821 B2, independent claim 1 and claim 4, which depends from claim 1, are allowable. Thus, claims 2, 3, and 5, which depend from claim 1, should be allowable as well. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the objection to claims 2, 3, and 5 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. Applicant believes that a full and complete reply has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment and Reply is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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